



Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology June 2021 Executive Director's Report

Accelerate CT

- Strategic Use of American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds by CSDE to develop a statewide education recovery and acceleration framework and programming
- Technology components to support training and certification in digital learning best practices, technology leadership and management, and OER
- Details posted at <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/COVID19/AccelerateCT>

Future of Technology Commission Town Hall

- Event to collect input from educational leaders to inform White House, Congress, and FCC on the effective use of technology (see futureoftechcommission.org)
- Tuesday, June 22, 1:00 – 3:00 PM (virtual)

Closing the Digital Divide

- Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB): Connects qualifying households (~1M in Connecticut); program continues through pandemic or end of funds
- Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF): Offsets to schools and libraries for home connectivity; round-1 funding for 2021 – 22 school year, potential round 2
- Everybody Learns: Commitment from Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to fund year-2 expenses for home broadband and cellular hotspots

Open Education Resources

- Statewide site open to all educational institutions for the purpose of creating, curating, and sharing high-quality, standards-aligned learning materials
- Awareness and engagement efforts underway; soft launch Friday, July 2
- Will include national and state content collections (e.g., Khan Academy) and collaborative "Hubs" as professional learning communities

Legislative Session

- Commission Membership: The original [HB 6573](#) — now part of [HB 6444](#) — reinstates former Commission positions in school leadership (CAPSS), educational technology specialists (CECA), and teachers (CEA and AFT)
- Broadband Bill: [HB 6442](#) designed to ensure equitable access to Internet; Section 3(d) requires by July 2023 the Commission to assess and report on student (K – 12 and higher education) to devices and broadband